FINANCIAL

## INTEREST

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ADVERTISE IN THE FARMER

Large Town Meeting-Tax of 12 Mills Automobile Racing - How to Stop it -School Fire Escapes - Selectmen May Borrow-Stealing an Apple Orchard-Boxing Postponed.

A large, interesting and important own meeting was held Saturday even-ng. The town hall was filled to overflowing, and the meeting did not ad-journ until nearly 10:45. Many gentlemen were present from the Stratfield and Southport districts, and all the eminent lawyers of the town, including Hon. Speaker Banks, Judge Perry, Mr. Justice Wakeman, Grand Juror Clitus King and Attorney James Cummings were in attendance. Mr. King was called to the chair and presided over the meeting with his usual impartiality proparity. The people of the partiality urbanity. The people of the town appeared to be in a very amiable and generous mood, gready to vote money for anything, reasonable, provided they had sufficient data to act

Doubtless the most important action by the town was the laying of a 12 mill tax for the ensuing year. It was conceded that 11 mills would not prothe necessary revenue, and some gentlemen were in favor of a 13 mill tax. Judge Banks said he would vote for 13 mills. Mr. J. W. Perry pointed out that the town is annually paying \$6,500 in interest, and he thought a 12 mill tax would raise enough money to have a few thousand dollars left over with which to reduce the indebt-edness of the town. It was estimat-ed that a 12 mill tax/ would produce about \$2,000 surplus, provided all the taxes can be collected. "But there may be a washout before morning," as some one said, and the surplus would be speedily wiped out for repairs. The appropriation asked for in 1908 to keep the town running, was \$66,150.00. For various reasons there is an increase this year of some \$2,000. A rising vote on the tax question was called for, and a good many citizens were in favor of a 13 mill tax the majority was for a tax of 12 mills. for a tax of 12 mills.

A very interesting discussion was precipitated by Dr. Donaldson, after the items in the call had been disposed of, regarding the racing of automo-biles through the streets of the town, and the injury done by them to the highways. He said he considered this the most important question before the community, as it concerned the preservation of the life and limbs of the in-mabitants. He spoke of the racing last Thursday, when Mr. Wallace was kill-ed, from the library corner on to Ash Creek bridge, and said the automobiles went three abreast, with their mufflers off, and taking up a good share of the roadway. He also alludshare of the roadway. He also allud-ed to the fact that it now costs the town some \$3,000 a year to keep the roads in repair that the manufacturers of automobiles may test their ma-chines, and the millionaires of New York use the streets for race tracks. He hoped some way would be devised He hoped some way would be devised to enforce the laws. Judge Banks agreed with Dr. Donaldson and said that he did not know what a town meeting could do in the matter. He thought the present automobile law a very good one and admitted that he had had not be down to do with its passage. very good one and admitted that he had had much to do with its passage at Hartford. He said he held up the at Hartford. He said he held up the House for 2 hours in order to get the law passed, and it was the hardest job of his legislative experience. The enforcement of the law is what is wanted. Judge Perry suggested that the best town meeting in which to consider this matter is the one held at the capitol in Hartford, and he moved that the representatives of Fairfield be in-structed to amend the law so as to structed to amend the law so as to make it more effective. The motion not being seconded, was not adopted. A number of gentlemen gave voice to their opinions regarding the racing of autos. Mr. J. W. Perry suggested that the selectmen write to the auto clubs in New York and Bridgeport, to the effect that the laws will be en-forced in Fairfield. He said such a notice would be published in all the papers in the United States and would have a deterrant effect. He also said that if some one stood at the boundry lines of the town, on the great high-ways and gave out cards to the auto-mobilists, it would be found that 90 per cent of them are gentlemen. Judge Perry said he would hereafter run his auto at a slower speed. One gentle-man suggested that all autos be geared to run but 20 miles an hour. Another to run but 20 miles an hour. Another thought a jall sentence was the only effective remedy. During this discussion, which was ultra vires to the call Mr. W. O. Burr. moved that the meeting adjourn. This motion was voted down, for it was plain the people are at last aroused over the racing question, whatever they may think of boxing bouts. It was said that Bridgeport will not allow the testing of machines on its roads, and it was proposed to prohibit them from doing proposed to prohibit them from doing so in Fairfield. The road which runs up Jennings hill, past the Jennings place, is being torn up terribly by these racing machines. Finally the selectmen were directed to see what measures can be adopted to prevent racing through the town.

Another subject which attracted considerable attention was that of ire essiderable attention was that of ire essiderable attention.

siderable attention was that of ire escapes for the schools. Supt. Wheatley took the floor and presented the case as seen from the view point of the School Board. He said it was admitted by all that the Southport school should have a fire escape and in his

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the Center school, the Greenfield Hill, the Stratfield and Nichols Terrace. The School Board is not sure if all these school houses should be provided with escapes. He would like to have a escapes. He would like to have a committee of expert firemen examine the buildings and make a report. Mr. W. O. Burr, one of the school board, said that the law is that there must be fire escapes where the building is over two stories high and there is but one exit. There are two school houses in town which have but one exit—the Southport and the Greenfield Hill Dr. Southport and the Greenfield Hill. Dr. M. V. B. Dunham had reported to the Board that the exit of the Greenfield school is just above the furnace, where a fire is sure to break out if at all. He thought the place a trap. Ex-Se-lectman Wakeman wished to know how many children there are on the upper floor of the Greenfield Hill school and was promptly informed that the number is 65. Finally Judge Perry moved that the school committee be instructed to provide fire es-capes where in its opinion they are needed. And subsequently the town capes where in its opinion they are needed. And subsequently the town appropriated the sum of \$700 to purchase fire escapes. It was estimated that to place them on the Southport school will cost \$200 and on the Greenfield Hill school, \$100, according to the number of platforms. Each additional platform costs \$100 extra. Some gentlemen thought this a pretty steep price.

As a mere matter of form and ac-commodation the town voted to per-mit the Selectmen to borrow the sum of \$10,000 for a period of three months, giving the notes of the town in the usual form, until the taxes come in, so that the selectmen can go on with

so that the selectmen can go on with their work. This resolution was adopted without discussion.

Some of the gentlemen present at the meeting were Mr. Brewer, Mr. Charles D. Jennings, Mr. Sturges, Mr. Hawkins, Mr. A. B. Wakeman, Representative Pease, Selectmen Fox and Rowe. Mr. T. Forsythe, Mr. B. Betts, Mr. Beach of Bridgeport, C. O. Jelliff, Robert C. Hitchcock, I. N. Bock, I. W. Berry, Jeseph J. Filipt and oth.

that the boxing bout which was to have taken place on the 16th inst., at Perry's hall, has been postponed for the present. If this is true it will gratify many good people. The funeral of Mr. Patrick Gorman, who died in Southport, aged 78, takes

Thomas' church.
It is thought the Greenfield Hill

Country club will give a minstrel en-tertainment sometime next spring. Mrs. W. H. Wilson is training a choir

of young ladies to that end.

A queer thing bappened in town on the night Mr. Whitaker was lecturing in Southport on the care of trees. As will be remembered the night was very stormy and dark. Taking advantage of that circumstance some one went into the grounds surrounding the home of Mr. A. Holland Forbes, on Main street, and pulled up and car-ried off some thirty or forty young apple trees which he set out last fall, and in which he took a good deal of pride. He was congratulating himself that the trees had survived what proved to be a very open winter. There was a clothes line in the yard, stretch-ed from one pole to another, and this was taken and cut up to bind the trees with. They were evidently carted off on someone's back, for Mr. Forbes' coachman has been able to trace footsteps in the soft soil for considerable distance. There may a question among orchardists how to protect trees from the San Juan scale, or how to prevent apples from being stolen, but these sink into insignificance when it becomes a question of preserving the trees themselves. Only the holes were left. There is a strong orts of things in town, but this is the sorts of things in town, but this is the first time an apple orchard has been stolen and carried off. The trees were brought from New York last fall and set out. It is understood that Mr. Forbes has given orders for the erection of an iron fence seven feet high around his land. Evidently the people must take some measures for the protection of both their property and

protection of both their property and their lives. poor, it does not follow there will be no ice next summer. Mr. Benjamir F. Bulkley, the ice man, has recently bought 1,200 tons of ice in the town of Winsted, and will have a good sup-There has been 14 inches thick can be cut from the

A number of townspeople went to Bridgeport on Friday evening to lis-ten to a lecture on liquid air. In the company were Miss Caroline Betts. Mr. B. Betts, Howard and Winfield Thomas. It has been suggested that the same lecture be given in this town, as it is deeply interesting and few people have ever seen liquid air.

Mr. C. O. Jelliff thinks it may be half a dozen years yet before he moves his plant from Southport to Bridgeport. He is well satisfied with his

#### POINTS OF INTEREST.

Don't Forget the ninth annual ball and whist to be given St. Patrick's night, March 17, at Eagles' hall by Lucetta Warner circle of Lady Foresters. The prizes which number over fifty are exceptionally beautiful and will be given at the whist which will be held in the large hall adjoining the dance hall. Dancing will be enjoyed during the whist. Music will be furnished by Mills or-chestra. Tickets 25 cents, including

Great Sale at the White House. Great Sale at the White House.

One of the greatest clothing sales in the history of Bridgeport, is now going on at the White House clothing house, located at 637-639-641 Water street, near Fairfield avenue. The object of this great sale is to wind up the affairs of the estate of the late clothier, Isadore Reich. Everything must be turned into cash. The above firm is not quoting prices, but go in and see for yourself. This sale will last only seven days more, so don't miss this. seven days more, so don't miss this great chance of getting your clothes and furnishings at a great reduction. If you purchase now you will save

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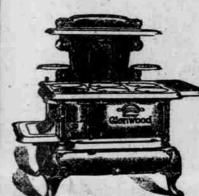
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